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► To cite this version:

Anne Estrade, Dongsheng Wu, Yimin Xiao. Packing dimension results for anisotropic Gaussian random fields. *communications in stochastic analysis*, 2011, 5 (1), pp.41-64. hal-00523335

HAL Id: hal-00523335

<https://hal.science/hal-00523335>

Submitted on 5 Oct 2010

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PACKING DIMENSION RESULTS FOR ANISOTROPIC GAUSSIAN RANDOM FIELDS

ANNE ESTRADE, DONGSHENG WU, AND YIMIN XIAO

ABSTRACT. Let $X = \{X(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ be a Gaussian random field with values in \mathbb{R}^d defined by

$$X(t) = (X_1(t), \dots, X_d(t)), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}^N,$$

where X_1, \dots, X_d are independent copies of a centered real-valued Gaussian random field X_0 . We consider the case when X_0 is anisotropic and study the packing dimension of the range $X(E)$, where $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$ is a Borel set. For this purpose we extend the original notion of packing dimension profile due to Falconer and Howroyd (1997) to the anisotropic metric space (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) , where $\rho(s, t) = \sum_{j=1}^N |s_j - t_j|^{H_j}$ and $(H_1, \dots, H_N) \in (0, 1)^N$ is a given vector. The extended notion of packing dimension profile is of independent interest.

1. Introduction

Fractal dimensions such as Hausdorff dimension, box-counting dimension and packing dimension are useful tools in studying fractals [see, e.g., Falconer (1990)], as well as in characterizing roughness or irregularity of stochastic processes and random fields. We refer to Taylor (1986) and Xiao (2004) for extensive surveys on results and techniques for investigating fractal properties of Markov processes, and to Adler (1981), Kahane (1985), Khoshnevisan (2002) and Xiao (2007, 2009a) for geometric results for Gaussian random fields.

Let $X = \{X(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ be a Gaussian random field with values in \mathbb{R}^d . For any set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, let $X(E) = \{X(t), t \in E\}$ and $\text{Gr}X(E) = \{(t, X(t)) : t \in E\}$ be the range and graph of X respectively. It is known that if X is a fractional Brownian motion or the Brownian sheet, the packing dimensions of $X([0, 1]^N)$ and $\text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N)$ coincide with their Hausdorff dimensions. However, when $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$ is an arbitrary Borel set, significant difference between the Hausdorff and packing dimensions of the image $X(E)$ may appear. Talagrand and Xiao (1996) proved that, even for such “nice” Gaussian random fields as fractional Brownian motion and the Brownian sheet, the Hausdorff and packing dimensions of $X(E)$ can be different because they depend on different aspects of the fractal structure of E . Xiao (1997) further showed that the packing dimension of $X(E)$ is determined by the packing dimension profiles introduced by Falconer and Howroyd (1997) [see Section 2 for the definition].

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 60G15; Secondary 60G18, 28A80.

Key words and phrases. Gaussian random fields, anisotropy, packing dimension, packing dimension profile, Hausdorff dimension, range.

On the other hand, as noted in Xiao (2007, 2009b), the fractal dimensions of the range $X([0, 1]^N)$ and graph $\text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N)$ themselves become more involved when X is a general Gaussian random field. To be more specific, let $X = \{X(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ be a Gaussian random field with values in \mathbb{R}^d defined on a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ by

$$X(t) = (X_1(t), \dots, X_d(t)), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (1.1)$$

where X_1, \dots, X_d are independent copies of a real-valued, centered Gaussian random field $X_0 = \{X_0(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$. When X_0 is at least approximately isotropic in the sense that

$$\mathbb{E}[(X_0(s) - X_0(t))^2] \asymp \phi(\|t - s\|), \quad \forall s, t \in [0, 1]^N, \quad (1.2)$$

where $\phi : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is a nondecreasing and continuous function with $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\|\cdot\|$ (here and throughout the paper) is the Euclidean norm, and where $f(x) \asymp g(x)$ for $x \in T$ means that the function $f(x)/g(x)$ is bounded from below and above by positive and finite constants that do not depend on $x \in T$, Xiao (2007) introduced an upper index α^* and a lower index α_* for ϕ at 0 [see Section 2 for their definitions] and proved that

$$\dim_{\text{H}} X([0, 1]^N) = \min \left\{ d, \frac{N}{\alpha^*} \right\}, \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (1.3)$$

and

$$\dim_{\text{H}} \text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N) = \min \left\{ \frac{N}{\alpha^*}, N + (1 - \alpha^*)d \right\}, \quad \text{a.s.}, \quad (1.4)$$

where $\dim_{\text{H}} E$ denotes Hausdorff dimension of E . Xiao (2009b) showed that the packing dimensions of $X([0, 1]^N)$ and $\text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N)$ are determined by the lower index α_* of ϕ . Namely,

$$\dim_{\text{P}} X([0, 1]^N) = \min \left\{ d, \frac{N}{\alpha_*} \right\}, \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (1.5)$$

and

$$\dim_{\text{P}} \text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N) = \min \left\{ \frac{N}{\alpha_*}, N + (1 - \alpha_*)d \right\}, \quad \text{a.s.}, \quad (1.6)$$

where $\dim_{\text{P}} E$ denotes the packing dimension of E . The results (1.3)–(1.6) show that, similar to the well-known cases of Lévy processes [see Pruitt and Taylor (1996)], the Hausdorff dimensions of $X([0, 1]^N)$ and $\text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N)$ may be different from their packing dimensions.

In recent years, there has been a lot of interest in studying anisotropic random fields such as fractional Brownian sheets or solution to the stochastic heat equation. Ayache and Xiao (2005), Wu and Xiao (2007, 2009) and Xiao (2009a) have shown that, when X_0 is anisotropic, the Hausdorff dimensions of the range and graph of the Gaussian random field X defined by (1.1) can be very different from the approximately isotropic case. In particular, the notion of Hausdorff dimension on \mathbb{R}^N equipped with the anisotropic metric ρ defined by

$$\rho(s, t) = \sum_{j=1}^N |s_j - t_j|^{H_j}, \quad \forall s, t \in \mathbb{R}^N \quad (1.7)$$

is needed in order to determine the Hausdorff dimension of $X(E)$. In the above and in the sequel, $H = (H_1, \dots, H_N) \in (0, 1)^N$ is a fixed vector.

The main objective of this paper is to study the packing dimension of the range $X(E)$ for a class of anisotropic Gaussian random fields defined as in (1.1). In particular, we determine the packing dimension of the range $X([0, 1]^N)$ when (1.2) is replaced by Condition (C) below and estimate the packing dimension of $X(E)$ for a general Borel set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$. For this latter purpose, we first extend the ideas in Falconer and Howroyd (1997) and introduce packing dimension profiles in the metric space (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) . For comparison purpose we also determine the Hausdorff dimensions of the $X([0, 1]^N)$ and $\text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N)$ and show that they are determined by the upper index α^* and (H_1, \dots, H_N) .

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we recall some basic facts about Gaussian random fields, construct a class of interesting examples of anisotropic Gaussian random fields. We also recall the definition of packing dimension profile of Falconer and Howroyd (1997). In Section 3 we provide the definition and some basic properties of packing dimension in the metric space (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) , and extend the packing dimension profiles of Falconer and Howroyd (1997) to (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) . Results in this section may have applications beyond the scope of the present paper. For example, they may be useful for studying self-affine fractals. We should mention that another extended notion of packing dimension profiles has also been developed by Khoshnevisan, Schilling and Xiao (2010) for studying the packing dimension of the range of a Lévy process. In Section 4, we determine the packing dimension of $X(E)$, where E can either be $[0, 1]^N$ or a general Borel set. We prove the upper bound by using a standard covering argument. The method for proving the lower bound for the packing dimension is potential-theoretic. It can be viewed as an analogue of the classical and powerful “capacity argument” [based on the Frostman theorem] for Hausdorff dimension computation. Finally the Hausdorff dimensions of $X([0, 1]^N)$ and $\text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N)$ are given in Section 5.

We will use K to denote an unspecified positive constant which may differ in each occurrence.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Anisotropic Gaussian random fields. Let $X = \{X(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ be an (N, d) -Gaussian random field defined by (1.1). To demonstrate the main differences in the fractal dimension properties between the isotropic and anisotropic cases, we assume that the real-valued centered Gaussian random field $X_0 = \{X_0(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ satisfies $X_0(0) = 0$ and the following Condition (C):

- (C) Let $\phi : [0, \delta_0) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a non-decreasing, right continuous function with $\phi(0) = 0$. For every compact interval $T \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, there exist positive constants δ_0 and $K \geq 1$ such that

$$K^{-1} \phi^2(\rho(s, t)) \leq \mathbb{E}[(X_0(t) - X_0(s))^2] \leq K \phi^2(\rho(s, t)) \quad (2.1)$$

for all $s, t \in T$ with $\rho(s, t) \leq \delta_0$, where ρ is the metric defined in (1.7)

The upper index of ϕ at 0 is defined by

$$\alpha^* = \inf \left\{ \beta \geq 0 : \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\phi(r)}{r^\beta} = \infty \right\} \quad (2.2)$$

with the convention $\inf \emptyset = \infty$. Analogously, the lower index of ϕ at 0 is defined by

$$\alpha_* = \sup \left\{ \beta \geq 0 : \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\phi(r)}{r^\beta} = 0 \right\} \quad (2.3)$$

with the convention $\sup \emptyset = 0$.

When $X_0 = \{X_0(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ satisfies (1.2), Condition (C) holds with $H_1 = \dots = H_N = 1$ and the above upper and lower indices α^* and α_* coincide with those defined in Xiao (2007, 2009a). When X_0 has stationary and isotropic increments, α^* and α_* coincide with the upper and lower indices of $\sigma(h)$ (which is a function of $\|h\|$), where

$$\sigma^2(h) = \mathbb{E}[(X_0(t+h) - X_0(t))^2], \quad \forall h \in \mathbb{R}^N. \quad (2.4)$$

However, the class of Gaussian random fields with $\alpha^* = \alpha_*$ in this paper is much wider than the so-called index- α Gaussian fields in Adler (1981) or Khoshnevisan (2002).

As in Xiao (2009b), many interesting examples of Gaussian random fields satisfying Condition (C) are those with stationary increments. Hence we collect some basic facts about them. Suppose $X_0 = \{X_0(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ has stationary increments and continuous covariance function $R(s, t) = \mathbb{E}[X(s)X(t)]$. Then, according to Yaglom (1957), $R(s, t)$ can be represented as

$$R(s, t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (e^{i\langle s, \lambda \rangle} - 1)(e^{-i\langle t, \lambda \rangle} - 1) \Delta(d\lambda) + \langle s, Qt \rangle, \quad (2.5)$$

where $\langle x, y \rangle$ is the ordinary scalar product in \mathbb{R}^N , Q is an $N \times N$ non-negative definite matrix and $\Delta(d\lambda)$ is a nonnegative symmetric measure on $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\}$ satisfying

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{\|\lambda\|^2}{1 + \|\lambda\|^2} \Delta(d\lambda) < \infty. \quad (2.6)$$

The measure Δ is called the *spectral measure* of X . It follows from (2.5) that X has the following stochastic integral representation:

$$X_0(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (e^{i\langle t, \lambda \rangle} - 1) W(d\lambda) + \langle \mathbf{Y}, t \rangle, \quad (2.7)$$

where \mathbf{Y} is an N -dimensional Gaussian random vector with mean 0 and $W(d\lambda)$ is a centered complex-valued Gaussian random measure which is independent of \mathbf{Y} and satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}(W(A)\overline{W(B)}) = \Delta(A \cap B) \quad \text{and} \quad W(-A) = \overline{W(A)}$$

for all Borel sets $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$. Since the linear term $\langle \mathbf{Y}, t \rangle$ in (2.7) will not have any effect on fractal dimensions of the range and graph of X , we will simply assume $\mathbf{Y} = 0$. Consequently, we have

$$\sigma^2(h) = \mathbb{E}[(X_0(t+h) - X_0(t))^2] = 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (1 - \cos \langle h, \lambda \rangle) \Delta(d\lambda). \quad (2.8)$$

It is important to observe that the incremental-variance function $\sigma^2(h)$ in (2.8) is a negative definite function in the sense of I. J. Schoenberg and thus can be viewed as the characteristic exponent of a symmetric infinitely divisible distribution. See Berg and Forst (1975) for more information on negative definite functions.

We remark that the class of Gaussian random fields satisfying Condition (C) is large. It not only includes fractional Brownian sheets of index $H = (H_1, \dots, H_N)$, the operator-scaling Gaussian fields with stationary increments in Xiao (2009b) and solutions to the stochastic heat equation [in all these cases, $\phi(r) = r$], but also the following subclass that can be constructed from general subordinators. For the definition of a completely monotone function and its connection to the Laplace exponent of a subordinator, see Berg and Forst (1975), Bertoin (1996) or Sato (1999).

Proposition 2.1. *Let ϕ be a completely monotone function and let σ_1^2 be a negative definite function on \mathbb{R}^N . Then $\sigma^2(u) = \phi(\sigma_1^2(u))$ is also a negative definite function. In particular, there is a centered Gaussian random field X_0 with stationary increments such that $X_0(0) = 0$ and $\mathbb{E}[(X_0(s) - X_0(t))^2] = \phi(\sigma_1^2(t - s))$ for all $s, t \in \mathbb{R}^N$.*

Proof. For completeness, we provide a proof which is motivated by the subordination argument for Lévy processes; see e.g. Bertoin (1996) or Sato (1999). Let $T = \{T(r), r \geq 0\}$ be a subordinator with Laplace exponent ϕ , and let $Y = \{Y(r), r \geq 0\}$ be a symmetric Lévy process with values in \mathbb{R}^N and characteristic exponent $\sigma_1^2(u)$ ($u \in \mathbb{R}^N$). We assume that T and Y are independent. Then a conditioning argument shows that the subordinated process Z defined by $Z(r) = Y(T(r))$ for $r \geq 0$ is also a Lévy process with values in \mathbb{R}^N whose characteristic function is given by

$$\mathbb{E}\left(e^{iuZ(r)}\right) = \mathbb{E}\left(e^{-T(r)\sigma_1^2(u)}\right) = e^{-r\phi(\sigma_1^2(u))}.$$

This proves the conclusion that the function $\sigma^2(u) = \phi(\sigma_1^2(u))$ is negative definite. \square

Since ϕ may have different upper and lower indices and σ_1^2 can be chosen to be the incremental variance of any anisotropic Gaussian field with stationary increments, Proposition 2.1 produces a quite large class of Gaussian random fields that satisfy Condition (C) with $0 < \alpha_* < \alpha^* \leq 1$. Such random fields can also be constructed by choosing appropriately the spectral measures Δ in (2.5) or by modifying the constructions of Lévy processes with different upper and lower Blumenthal-Gettoor indices [see Pruitt and Taylor (1996) and the references therein for more information].

Sample path continuity of Gaussian fields is well studied and there are several ways to determine modulus of continuity of Gaussian random fields; see, e.g., Dudley (1973) and Marcus and Rosen (2006) for a review. The following lemma is a consequence of Corollary 2.3 in Dudley (1973). It will be useful for deriving upper bounds for the Hausdorff and packing dimensions of the range and graph.

Lemma 2.2. *Assume $X_0 = \{X_0(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ is a real-valued centered Gaussian random field that satisfies the upper bound in (2.1). If the upper and lower indices*

of ϕ at 0 satisfy $0 < \alpha_* \leq \alpha^* \leq 1$, then for every compact interval $T \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, there exists a finite constant K such that

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sup_{s,t \in T: \rho(s,t) \leq \delta} |X_0(s) - X_0(t)|}{f(\delta)} \leq K, \quad \text{a.s.}, \quad (2.9)$$

where $f(h) = \phi(h) |\log \phi(h)|^{1/2}$.

2.2. Packing dimension and packing dimension profile. Packing dimension and packing measure on $(\mathbb{R}^N, \|\cdot\|)$ were introduced in the early 1980s by Tricot (1982) and Taylor and Tricot (1985) as dual concepts to Hausdorff dimension and Hausdorff measure. The notion of packing dimension profiles was introduced by Falconer and Howroyd (1997) for computing the packing dimension of orthogonal projections. Their definition of packing dimension profiles is based on potential-theoretical approach. Later Howroyd (2001) defined another packing dimension profile from the point of view of box-counting dimension. Recently, Khoshnevisan and Xiao (2008) proved that the packing dimension profiles of Falconer and Howroyd (1997) and Howroyd (2001) are the same.

For any $\varepsilon > 0$ and any bounded set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, let $N(E, \varepsilon)$ be the smallest number of balls of radius ε needed to cover E . The upper box-counting dimension of E is defined as

$$\overline{\dim}_B E = \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N(E, \varepsilon)}{-\log \varepsilon}$$

and the packing dimension of E is defined as

$$\dim_P E = \inf \left\{ \sup_n \overline{\dim}_B E_n : E \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \right\}, \quad (2.10)$$

see Tricot (1982) or Falconer (1990, p.45). It is well known that $0 \leq \dim_H E \leq \dim_P E \leq \overline{\dim}_B E \leq N$ for every set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^N$.

For a finite Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^N , its packing dimension is defined by

$$\dim_P \mu = \inf \{ \dim_P E : \mu(E) > 0 \text{ and } E \subset \mathbb{R}^N \text{ is a Borel set} \}. \quad (2.11)$$

Falconer and Howroyd (1997) defined the s -dimensional packing dimension profile of μ as

$$\text{Dim}_s \mu = \sup \left\{ \beta \geq 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_s^\mu(x, r)}{r^\beta} = 0 \text{ for } \mu\text{-a.a. } x \in \mathbb{R}^N \right\}, \quad (2.12)$$

where, for any $s > 0$, $F_s^\mu(x, r)$ is the s -dimensional potential of μ defined by

$$F_s^\mu(x, r) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \min\{1, r^s \|y - x\|^{-s}\} d\mu(y). \quad (2.13)$$

Falconer and Howroyd (1997) showed that

$$0 \leq \text{Dim}_s \mu \leq s \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Dim}_s \mu = \dim_P \mu \quad \text{if } s \geq N. \quad (2.14)$$

Note that the identity in (2.14) provides the following equivalent characterization of $\dim_P \mu$ in terms of the potential $F_N^\mu(x, r)$:

$$\dim_P \mu = \sup \left\{ \beta \geq 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_N^\mu(x, r)}{r^\beta} = 0 \text{ for } \mu\text{-a.a. } x \in \mathbb{R}^N \right\}. \quad (2.15)$$

For any Borel set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, the s -dimensional packing dimension profile of E is defined by

$$\text{Dim}_s E = \sup \{ \text{Dim}_s \mu : \mu \in \mathcal{M}_c^+(E) \}, \quad (2.16)$$

where $\mathcal{M}_c^+(E)$ denotes the family of finite Borel measures with compact support in E . It follows from (2.14) that $0 \leq \text{Dim}_s E \leq s$ and $\text{Dim}_s E = \dim_p E$ if $s \geq N$. This last fact gives a measure-theoretic characterization of $\dim_p E$ in terms of packing dimension profiles.

3. Packing dimension and packing dimension profile on anisotropic metric spaces

Ordinary Hausdorff and packing dimension (i.e. those in the Euclidean metric) may not be able to characterize the Hausdorff and packing dimensions of the images of anisotropic random fields, and the notion of Hausdorff dimension on the metric space (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) is needed; see Wu and Xiao (2007, 2009) and Xiao (2009a). In this section, we define packing measure, packing dimension and packing dimension profiles on the metric space (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) . The later is an extension of the notion of packing dimension profiles of Falconer and Howroyd (1997) to (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) . We believe it will have applications beyond scope of this paper.

Throughout this paper, denote

$$B_\rho(x, r) := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^N : \rho(y, x) < r\}.$$

For any $\beta > 0$ and $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, the β -dimensional packing measure ψ - p of E in the metric ρ is defined by

$$s^\beta\text{-}p_\rho(E) = \inf \left\{ \sum_n \mathcal{P}_\rho^\beta(E_n) : E \subseteq \bigcup_n E_n \right\}, \quad (3.1)$$

where

$$\mathcal{P}_\rho^\beta(E) = \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2r_n)^\beta : \{B_\rho(x_n, r_n)\} \text{ are disjoint, } x_n \in E, r_n \leq \delta \right\}. \quad (3.2)$$

The packing dimension of E is defined by

$$\dim_p^\rho E = \inf \{ \beta > 0 : s^\beta\text{-}p_\rho(E) = 0 \}. \quad (3.3)$$

It can be verified directly that \dim_p^ρ has the σ -stability: for any sequence sets $E_n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, we have

$$\dim_p^\rho \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \right) = \sup_n \dim_p^\rho E_n. \quad (3.4)$$

Similar to the Euclidean case studied by Tricot (1982) [see also Falconer (1990)], the packing dimension in (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) can also be defined through the upper box-counting dimension. For any $\varepsilon > 0$ and any bounded set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, let $N_\rho(E, \varepsilon)$ be the smallest number of balls of radius ε (in the metric ρ) needed to cover E . The upper box-counting dimension (in the metric ρ) of E is defined as

$$\overline{\dim}_B^\rho E = \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log N_\rho(E, \varepsilon)}{-\log \varepsilon}.$$

The following proposition is an extension of a result of Tricot (1982).

Proposition 3.1. *For any set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, we have*

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E = \inf \left\{ \sup_n \overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E_n : E \subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \right\}. \quad (3.5)$$

Proof. First, we prove that for $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E \leq \overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E. \quad (3.6)$$

In fact, for any fixed $\gamma < \beta < \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E$, $\mathcal{P}_{\rho}^{\beta}(E) = \infty$. Therefore, for a given $0 < \delta \leq 1$, there exists a family of disjoint $\{B_{\rho}(x_i, r_i)\}$, where $x_i \in E$ and $r_i \leq \delta$, such that $1 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (2r_i)^{\beta}$. Suppose, for every nonnegative integer k , there are n_k ρ -balls satisfying $2^{-k-2} < r_i \leq 2^{-k-1}$, then $1 \leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} n_k 2^{-k\beta}$, which implies that there exists an k_0 such that $n_{k_0} > 2^{k_0\gamma} (1 - 2^{\gamma-\beta})$. Furthermore, each of these n_{k_0} ρ -balls contains a ρ -ball centered in E with radius $2^{-k_0-2} \leq \delta$. Let $N_{\rho}(E, \varepsilon)$ be the largest number of disjoint ρ -balls centered in E with radius ε , then

$$N_{\rho}(E, 2^{-k_0-2}) (2^{-k_0-2})^{\gamma} \geq n_{k_0} (2^{-k_0-2})^{\gamma} > 2^{-2\gamma} (1 - 2^{\gamma-\beta}), \quad (3.7)$$

where $2^{-k_0-2} \leq \delta$. Therefore, $\limsup_{\delta \downarrow 0} N_{\rho}(E, \delta) \delta^{\gamma} > 0$, which implies that for every $\gamma < \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E$ we have $\overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E \geq \gamma$. This finishes the proof of (3.6).

Now we are ready to prove (3.5). If $E \subseteq \bigcup_n E_n$, by (3.4) and (3.6), we have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E \leq \sup_n \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E_n \leq \sup_n \overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E_n, \quad (3.8)$$

which proves

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E \leq \inf \left\{ \sup_n \overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E_n : E \subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \right\}. \quad (3.9)$$

Conversely, if $\beta > \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E$, then $s^{\beta-p_{\rho}}(E) = 0$. Hence there exists a sequence $\{E_n\}$ such that $E \subseteq \bigcup E_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_{\rho}^{\beta}(E_n) < \infty$. By (3.2), we have that $N_{\rho}(E_n, \delta) \delta^{\beta}$ is bounded when δ is sufficiently small. Therefore, for each n , $\overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E_n \leq \beta$, which implies

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E \geq \inf \left\{ \sup_n \overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E_n : E \subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \right\}. \quad (3.10)$$

Combining (3.9) and (3.10) yields (3.5). \square

Denote $Q := \sum_{j=1}^N H_j^{-1}$, it follows from the definition of $\dim_{\mathbb{H}}^{\rho}$ [cf. Xiao (2009a)], (3.2) and Proposition 3.1 that for every set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$0 \leq \dim_{\mathbb{H}}^{\rho} E \leq \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E \leq \overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}}^{\rho} E \leq Q. \quad (3.11)$$

Moreover, if E has non-empty interior, then $\dim_{\mathbb{H}}^{\rho} E = \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E = Q$.

For a finite Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^N , similarly to (2.11) we define its packing dimension in metric ρ as

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} \mu = \inf \{ \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E : \mu(E) > 0 \text{ and } E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N \text{ is a Borel set} \}. \quad (3.12)$$

The following proposition gives a characterization of $\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} \mu$ in terms of the local dimension of μ . It is obtained by applying Lemma 4.1 [cf. (4.7)] of Hu and Taylor (1994) to $\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho}$.

Proposition 3.2. *Let μ be a finite Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^N . Then*

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} \mu = \sup \left\{ \beta > 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu(B_{\rho}(x, r))}{r^{\beta}} = 0 \text{ for } \mu\text{-a.a. } x \in \mathbb{R}^N \right\}. \quad (3.13)$$

Extending the definition of Falconer and Howroyd (1997), we define the s -dimensional packing dimension profile of μ in metric ρ as

$$\text{Dim}_s^{\rho} \mu = \sup \left\{ \beta \geq 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_{s, \rho}^{\mu}(x, r)}{r^{\beta}} = 0 \text{ for } \mu\text{-a.a. } x \in \mathbb{R}^N \right\}, \quad (3.14)$$

where, for any $s > 0$, $F_{s, \rho}^{\mu}(x, r)$ is the s -dimensional potential of μ in metric ρ defined by

$$F_{s, \rho}^{\mu}(x, r) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \min \left\{ 1, \frac{r^s}{\rho(x, y)^s} \right\} d\mu(y). \quad (3.15)$$

The following lemma is an extension of Corollary 2.3 of Falconer and Mattila (1996) [see also Lemma 1 of Falconer and Howroyd (1997)] to the metric space (\mathbb{R}^N, ρ) .

Lemma 3.3. *Let $0 < a < 1$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. For every finite Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^N the following holds for μ -almost all x : If $r > 0$ is sufficiently small, then for all h with $r^a \leq h \leq 1$ we have*

$$\mu(B_{\rho}(x, h)) \leq \left(\frac{4h}{r} \right)^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \mu(B_{\rho}(x, r)). \quad (3.16)$$

The proof essentially follows the same idea as the proofs of Lemma 2.1 and Lemma 2.2 of Falconer and Mattila (1996).

Proof. There is no loss in generality in assuming μ is a probability measure. We first prove that for $r > 0$, $\lambda > 1$ and $M \geq 1$, we have

$$\mu\{x : \mu(B_{\rho}(x, \lambda r)) \geq M\mu(B_{\rho}(x, r))\} \leq 4^Q M^{-1} \lambda^Q. \quad (3.17)$$

Let

$$A = \{x : \mu(B_{\rho}(x, \lambda r)) \geq M\mu(B_{\rho}(x, r))\}.$$

If $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is such that $A \cap B_{\rho}(x, r/2) \neq \emptyset$, then for every $y \in A \cap B_{\rho}(x, r/2)$, we have $B_{\rho}(x, r/2) \subseteq B_{\rho}(y, r)$ and $B_{\rho}(y, \lambda r) \subseteq B_{\rho}(x, 2\lambda r)$, whence

$$\mu(A \cap B_{\rho}(x, r/2)) \leq \mu(B_{\rho}(y, r)) \leq M^{-1} \mu(B_{\rho}(y, \lambda r)) \leq M^{-1} \mu(B_{\rho}(x, 2\lambda r)).$$

Denote $V_N := m_N(B_{\rho}(0, 1))$, where m_N denotes the Lebesgue measure in \mathbb{R}^N . A change of variables shows that $m_N(B_{\rho}(x, r)) = r^Q V_N$ for all $r > 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$.

This and Fubini's Theorem yield

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu(A) &= V_N^{-1} \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)^{-Q} \int_A m_N(B_\rho(x, r/2)) \mu(dx) \\
&= 2^Q V_N^{-1} r^{-Q} \int \mu(A \cap B_\rho(x, r/2)) m_N(dx) \\
&\leq 2^Q V_N^{-1} r^{-Q} M^{-1} \int \mu(A \cap B_\rho(x, 2\lambda r)) m_N(dx) \\
&= 4^Q M^{-1} \lambda^Q V_N^{-1} (2\lambda r)^{-Q} \int m_N(B_\rho(x, 2\lambda r)) \mu(dx) \\
&= 4^Q M^{-1} \lambda^Q,
\end{aligned} \tag{3.18}$$

which proves (3.17).

Now, we prove that for $0 < a < 1$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a constant $K > 0$, depending only on a , ε and Q , such that for every Borel finite measure μ and for all $r_0 \leq 1/2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mu \left\{ x : \mu(B_\rho(x, h)) > \left(\frac{4h}{r}\right)^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \right. \\
&\quad \left. \text{for some } r \text{ and } h \text{ with } 0 < r < r_0 \text{ and } r^a \leq h \leq 1 \right\} \\
&\leq K r_0^{Q\varepsilon(1-a)}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.19}$$

In fact, by (3.17) we have that for $h > r > 0$,

$$\mu \left\{ x : \mu(B_\rho(x, h)) \geq \left(\frac{h}{r}\right)^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \mu(B_\rho(x, r)) \right\} \leq 4^Q \left(\frac{h}{r}\right)^{-Q\varepsilon}. \tag{3.20}$$

In particular, by taking $h = 2^{-p}$ and $r = 2^{-q}$ where p and q are nonnegative integers with $p < q$, we have

$$\mu \left\{ x : \mu(B_\rho(x, 2^{-p})) \geq (2^{q-p})^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \mu(B_\rho(x, 2^{-q})) \right\} \leq 4^Q (2^{q-p})^{-Q\varepsilon}. \tag{3.21}$$

Hence, for any $q_0 \geq 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mu \left\{ x : \mu(B_\rho(x, 2^{-p})) \geq (2^{q-p})^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \mu(B_\rho(x, 2^{-q})) \right. \\
&\quad \left. \text{for some integers } p \text{ and } q \text{ with } 0 \leq p \leq aq \text{ and } q \geq q_0 \right\} \\
&\leq 4^Q \sum_{q=q_0}^{\infty} \sum_{p=0}^{[aq]} (2^{q-p})^{-Q\varepsilon} \\
&\leq \frac{4^Q 2^{Q\varepsilon}}{2^{Q\varepsilon} - 1} \sum_{q=q_0}^{\infty} (2^{Q\varepsilon(a-1)})^q \\
&= \frac{4^Q 2^{Q\varepsilon} (2^{-q_0})^{Q\varepsilon(1-a)}}{(2^{Q\varepsilon} - 1)(1 - 2^{Q\varepsilon(a-1)})} := K (2^{-q_0})^{Q\varepsilon(1-a)}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.22}$$

Set $r_0 = 2^{-1-q_0}$ and take any h and r with $0 < r < r_0$ and $r^a \leq h \leq 1$. Let p and $q \geq q_0$ be integers such that $2^{-1-p} < h \leq 2^{-p}$ and $2^{-q} < r \leq 2^{-q+1}$. Then

$2^{-p} \geq 2^{-aq}$, and thus $p \leq aq$. If for some x we have that

$$\mu(B_\rho(x, h)) > \left(\frac{4h}{r}\right)^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \mu(B_\rho(x, r)),$$

then

$$\mu(B_\rho(x, 2^{-p})) > (2^{q-p})^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \mu(B_\rho(x, 2^{-q})).$$

Clearly, (3.19) follows from (3.22), and Lemma 3.3 follows from (3.19) and the Borel-Cantelli lemma. \square

Proposition 3.4. *Let μ be a finite Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^N and let $s \in (0, Q]$. Then for μ -almost all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ the following holds: If*

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-s} \mu(B_\rho(x, r)) < \infty, \quad (3.23)$$

then for all $0 \leq t < s$,

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-t} F_{Q,\rho}^\mu(x, r) = 0. \quad (3.24)$$

Proof. We fix $0 \leq t < s$. Choose $\varepsilon > 0$ and $0 < a < 1$ such that

$$Q\varepsilon < s - t \quad \text{and} \quad Q(1+\varepsilon)(1-a) < s - t. \quad (3.25)$$

Suppose $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ such that the conclusion of Lemma 3.3 and (3.23) hold. Denote $\mu(B_\rho(x, r))$ by $b_{x,\rho}(r)$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_{Q,\rho}^\mu(x, r) &= b_{x,\rho}(r) + r^Q \int_r^\infty h^{-Q} db_{x,\rho}(h) \\ &= Qr^Q \int_r^\infty h^{-Q-1} b_{x,\rho}(h) dh \\ &= Qr^Q \left(\int_r^{r^a} + \int_{r^a}^1 + \int_1^\infty \right) h^{-Q-1} b_{x,\rho}(h) dh \\ &\leq Qr^Q \int_r^{r^a} h^{-Q-1} b_{x,\rho}(r^a) dh + Qr^Q \int_{r^a}^1 h^{-Q-1} \left(b_{x,\rho}(r) (4h/r)^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} \right) dh \\ &\quad + Qr^Q \int_1^\infty h^{-Q-1} \mu(\mathbb{R}^N) dh \\ &\leq b_{x,\rho}(r^a) + 4^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} b_{x,\rho}(r) r^{-Q\varepsilon} \int_{r^a}^1 h^{Q\varepsilon-1} dh + r^Q \mu(\mathbb{R}^N) \\ &\leq (4r^{a-1})^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} b_{x,\rho}(r) + 4^{Q(1+\varepsilon)} (Q\varepsilon)^{-1} r^{-Q\varepsilon} b_{x,\rho}(r) + r^Q \mu(\mathbb{R}^N). \end{aligned} \quad (3.26)$$

By (3.23), there exists a finite constant $K > 0$ such that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-s} \mu(B_\rho(x, r)) \leq K. \quad (3.27)$$

Hence for some finite constant K and arbitrary small $r > 0$,

$$F_{Q,\rho}^\mu(x, r) \leq K (r^{s-Q(1+\varepsilon)(1-a)} + r^{s-Q\varepsilon} + r^Q). \quad (3.28)$$

Therefore, by (3.25) and by noting that $t < s \leq Q$, we have (3.24) as required. \square

To prove a similar result as Proposition 18 in Falconer and Howroyd (1997), we define a local variant of Dim_s^ρ by

$$p_{x,\rho}(s) = \sup\{t \geq 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-t} F_{s,\rho}^\mu(x, r) = 0\}, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N. \quad (3.29)$$

Note that

$$F_{s,\rho}^\mu(x, r) = b_{x,\rho}(r) + r^s \int_r^\infty h^{-s} db_{x,\rho}(h) = sr^s \int_r^\infty h^{-s-1} b_{x,\rho}(h) dh. \quad (3.30)$$

For $0 \leq s \leq t$, we have

$$\mu(\mathbb{R}^N) \geq F_{s,\rho}^\mu(x, r) \geq F_{t,\rho}^\mu(x, r), \quad (3.31)$$

which gives us that

$$0 \leq p_{x,\rho}(s) \leq p_{x,\rho}(t). \quad (3.32)$$

Since we also have

$$\mu(\mathbb{R}^N) \geq F_{s,\rho}^\mu(x, r) \geq r^s \int_r^\infty h^{-s} db_{x,\rho}(h) \quad (3.33)$$

and $\int_r^\infty h^{-s} db_{x,\rho}(h)$ increases as r decreases and is positive for sufficiently small r , we obtain that

$$p_{x,\rho}(s) \leq s. \quad (3.34)$$

By noting that

$$F_{s,\rho}^\mu(x, r) \geq b_{x,\rho}(r) = \mu(B_\rho(x, r)), \quad (3.35)$$

we prove

$$p_{x,\rho}(s) \leq \sup\{t \geq 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-t} \mu(B_\rho(x, r)) = 0\}. \quad (3.36)$$

By the same token as that of the proof of Proposition 16 in Falconer and Howroyd (1997), we also can derive that for $0 \leq s \leq t < \infty$,

$$p_{x,\rho}(s) \geq \frac{p_{x,\rho}(t)}{1 + (1/s - 1/t)p_{x,\rho}(t)}. \quad (3.37)$$

Clearly, (3.37) and (3.34) are equivalent to the following: $p_{x,\rho}(0) = 0$ and for all $0 \leq s \leq t < \infty$,

$$0 \leq \frac{1}{p_{x,\rho}(s)} - \frac{1}{s} \leq \frac{1}{p_{x,\rho}(t)} - \frac{1}{t}. \quad (3.38)$$

By Proposition 3.4, we have that for μ -almost all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$p_{x,\rho}(Q) \geq \sup\{t \geq 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-t} \mu(B_\rho(x, r)) = 0\}. \quad (3.39)$$

Combining (3.39) with (3.36), (3.32) and (3.34), we have that for μ -almost all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and for all $t \geq Q$,

$$p_{x,\rho}(t) = p_{x,\rho}(Q) \leq Q. \quad (3.40)$$

Proposition 3.5. *For any finite Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^N ,*

$$0 \leq \text{Dim}_s^\rho \mu \leq s \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Dim}_s^\rho \mu = \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^\rho \mu \quad \text{if} \quad s \geq Q. \quad (3.41)$$

Furthermore, $\text{Dim}_s^\rho \mu$ is continuous in s .

Proof. This follows immediately from (3.38), the definitions of $\text{Dim}_s^\rho \mu$ [cf. (3.14)] and Proposition 3.2. \square

Note that the identity in (3.41) provides the following equivalent characterization of $\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} \mu$ in terms of the potential $F_{Q,\rho}^{\mu}(x,r)$, where $Q = \sum_{j=1}^N H_j^{-1}$:

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} \mu = \sup \left\{ \beta \geq 0 : \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_{Q,\rho}^{\mu}(x,r)}{r^{\beta}} = 0 \text{ for } \mu\text{-a.a. } x \in \mathbb{N} \right\}. \quad (3.42)$$

For any Borel set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$, the s -dimensional packing dimension profile of E in the metric ρ is defined by

$$\text{Dim}_s^{\rho} E = \sup \{ \text{Dim}_s^{\rho} \mu : \mu \in \mathcal{M}_c^+(E) \}, \quad (3.43)$$

where $\mathcal{M}_c^+(E)$ denotes the family of finite Borel measures with compact support in E . It follows from (3.41) that

$$0 \leq \text{Dim}_s^{\rho} E \leq s \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Dim}_s^{\rho} E = \dim_{\mathbb{P}}^{\rho} E \quad \text{if } s \geq Q. \quad (3.44)$$

4. Packing dimension results

Now we consider the packing dimensions of the range and graph of an (N, d) -Gaussian random field. We will assume throughout the rest of this paper that

$$0 < H_1 \leq \dots \leq H_N < 1. \quad (4.1)$$

Recall that $Q = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{H_j}$.

4.1. Packing dimension of $X([0, 1]^N)$. First we consider the packing dimension of $X([0, 1]^N)$. The following result shows that it is determined by the lower index of ϕ and (H_1, \dots, H_N) .

Theorem 4.1. *Let $X = \{X(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ be the Gaussian random field in \mathbb{R}^d defined by (1.1). We assume that the associated random field X_0 satisfies Condition (C). If ϕ with $0 < \alpha_* \leq \alpha^* < 1$ satisfies one of the following two conditions: For any $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough, there exists a constant K such that*

$$\int_0^N \left(\frac{1}{\phi(x)} \right)^{d-\varepsilon} x^{Q-1} dx \leq K \quad (4.2)$$

or

$$\int_1^{N/a} \left(\frac{\phi(a)}{\phi(ax)} \right)^{d-\varepsilon} x^{Q-1} dx \leq K a^{-\varepsilon} \quad \text{for all } a \in (0, 1]. \quad (4.3)$$

Then with probability 1,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} X([0, 1]^N) = \min \left\{ d; \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_* H_j} \right\}. \quad (4.4)$$

We will prove that with probability 1, $\min \left\{ d; \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_* H_j} \right\}$ is an upper bound and a lower bound of $\dim_{\mathbb{P}} X([0, 1]^N)$ separately. The upper bound is proved by using the modulus of continuity of X and a covering argument, and the proof of the lower bounds is based on the potential-theoretic approach to packing dimension [see (2.15)] of finite Borel measures.

For any Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^N , the image measure of μ under the mapping $t \mapsto f(t)$ is defined by

$$(\mu \circ f^{-1})(B) := \mu\{t \in \mathbb{R}^N : f(t) \in B\} \quad \text{for all Borel sets } B \subset \mathbb{R}^d.$$

The following lemma was proved in Xiao (1997), which relates $\dim_{\mathbb{P}} f(E)$ with the packing dimensions of the image measures.

Lemma 4.2. *Let $E \subset \mathbb{N}$ be an analytic set. Then for any continuous function $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$*

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} f(E) = \sup \{ \dim_{\mathbb{P}} (\mu \circ f^{-1}) : \mu \in \mathcal{M}_c^+(E) \}. \quad (4.5)$$

We are now ready to prove Theorem 4.1.

Proof. We first prove the upper bound in (4.4). Since

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} X([0, 1]^N) \leq d \quad \text{a.s.},$$

it is sufficient to show that $\dim_{\mathbb{P}} X([0, 1]^N) \leq Q/\alpha_*$ a.s. For any $\varepsilon \in (0, \alpha_*)$, Lemma 2.2 implies that $X(t)$ satisfies almost surely the following uniform Hölder condition

$$\|X(s) - X(t)\| \leq K(\omega) \rho(s, t)^{\alpha_* - \varepsilon}, \quad \forall s, t \in [0, 1]^N.$$

Hence a standard covering argument [e.g., Xiao (2009a)] shows that

$$\overline{\dim}_{\mathbb{B}} X([0, 1]^N) \leq Q/(\alpha_* - \varepsilon) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

This implies

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} X([0, 1]^N) \leq Q/(\alpha_* - \varepsilon) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Letting $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$ along the sequence of rational numbers yields the desired upper bound.

Now we proceed to prove the lower bound in (4.4). By Lemma 4.2, we have $\dim_{\mathbb{P}} X([0, 1]^N) \geq \dim_{\mathbb{P}} (m_N \circ X^{-1})$ almost surely. Hence it is sufficient to show that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} (m_N \circ X^{-1}) \geq \min \left\{ d, \frac{Q}{\alpha_*} \right\}, \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (4.6)$$

For simplicity of notation, we will, from now on, denote the image measure $m_N \circ X^{-1}$ by μ_X .

Note that, for every fixed $s \in \mathbb{N}$, Fubini's theorem implies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} F_d^{\mu_X}(X(s), r) &= \mathbb{E} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \min \{1, r^d \|v - X(s)\|^{-d}\} d\mu_X(v) \\ &= \int_{[0, 1]^N} \mathbb{E} \min \{1, r^d \|X(t) - X(s)\|^{-d}\} dt. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

The last integrand in (4.7) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E} \min \{1, r^d \|X(t) - X(s)\|^{-d}\} \\ &= \mathbb{P}\{\|X(t) - X(s)\| \leq r\} + \mathbb{E}\{r^d \|X(t) - X(s)\|^{-d} \cdot \mathbf{1}_{\{\|X(t) - X(s)\| \geq r\}}\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

By Condition (C), we obtain that for all $s, t \in [0, 1]^N$ and $r > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\{\|X(t) - X(s)\| \leq r\} \leq K \min \left\{ 1, \frac{r^d}{\phi(\rho(t, s))^d} \right\}. \quad (4.9)$$

Denote the distribution of $X(t) - X(s)$ by $\Gamma_{s,t}(\cdot)$. Let ν be the image measure of $\Gamma_{s,t}(\cdot)$ under the mapping $T : z \mapsto \|z\|$ from \mathbb{R}^d to \mathbb{R}_+ . Then the second term in (4.8) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{r^d}{\|z\|^d} \mathbf{1}_{\{\|z\| \geq r\}} \Gamma_{s,t}(dz) &= \int_r^\infty \frac{r^d}{u^d} \nu(du) \\ &\leq d \int_r^\infty \frac{r^d}{u^{d+1}} \mathbb{P}\{\|X(t) - X(s)\| \leq u\} du, \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

where the last inequality follows from an integration-by-parts formula.

Hence, by (4.9) and (4.10) we derive that, up to a constant, the second term in (4.8) can be bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} &r^d \int_r^\infty \frac{1}{u^{d+1}} \min \left\{ 1, \left(\frac{u}{\phi(\rho(t,s))} \right)^d \right\} du \\ &\leq K \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r \geq \phi(\rho(t,s)), \\ \left(\frac{r}{\phi(\rho(t,s))} \right)^d \log \left(\frac{\phi(\rho(t,s))}{r} \right) & \text{if } r < \phi(\rho(t,s)). \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

It follows from (4.8), (4.9), (4.10) and (4.11) that for any $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ and $s, t \in [0, 1]^N$,

$$\mathbb{E} \min \left\{ 1, r^d \|X(t) - X(s)\|^{-d} \right\} \leq K \min \left\{ 1, \left(\frac{r}{\phi(\rho(t,s))} \right)^{d-\varepsilon} \right\}. \quad (4.12)$$

Combining (4.7) and (4.12) we derive

$$\mathbb{E} F_d^{\mu^X}(X(s), r) \leq K \int_{[0,1]^N} \min \left\{ 1, \left(\frac{r}{\phi(\rho(0, t-s))} \right)^{d-\varepsilon} \right\} dt. \quad (4.13)$$

Let us consider the diagonal matrix $D = \text{diag}(1/H_1, \dots, 1/H_N)$. Then, $t \mapsto \rho(0, t)$ is D -homogeneous function in the sense of Definition 2.6 of Biermé, et al. (2007), that is $\rho(0, r^D t) = r \rho(0, t)$ for all $r > 0$, where $r^D := \exp(\log(r)D)$. By using the formula of integration in the polar coordinates with respect to D [see Proposition 2.3 in Biermé, et al. (2007)] to the integral in (4.13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} F_d^{\mu^X}(X(s), r) &\leq K \int_0^N \min \left\{ 1, \left(\frac{r}{\phi(x)} \right)^{d-\varepsilon} \right\} x^{Q-1} dx \\ &= K \left\{ \int_0^{\phi^{-1}(r)} x^{Q-1} dx + \int_{\phi^{-1}(r)}^N \left(\frac{r}{\phi(x)} \right)^{d-\varepsilon} x^{Q-1} dx \right\} \\ &:= I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

In the above, $\phi^{-1}(x) = \inf\{y : \phi(y) > x\}$ is the right-continuous inverse function of ϕ . It can be seen that ϕ^{-1} is non-decreasing and satisfies $\phi(\phi^{-1}(x)) = x$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \phi^{-1}(x) = 0$.

Let us estimate I_1 and I_2 . Clearly, we have

$$I_1 = K [\phi^{-1}(r)]^Q. \quad (4.15)$$

To estimate I_2 , we distinguish two cases. If ϕ satisfies (4.2), then for all $r > 0$ small enough, we derive

$$I_2 \leq K r^{d-\varepsilon} \int_0^N \left(\frac{1}{\phi(x)} \right)^{d-\varepsilon} x^{Q-1} dx \leq K r^{d-\varepsilon}. \quad (4.16)$$

On the other hand, if ϕ satisfies (4.3), then we make a change of variable $x = \phi^{-1}(r)y$ to derive that for all $r > 0$ small enough,

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &\leq K [\phi^{-1}(r)]^Q \int_1^{N/\phi^{-1}(r)} \frac{r^{d-\varepsilon}}{\phi(\phi^{-1}(r)y)^{d-\varepsilon}} y^{Q-1} dy \\ &\leq K [\phi^{-1}(r)]^{Q-\varepsilon}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.17)$$

It follows from (4.14), (4.15), (4.16) and (4.17) that for all $r > 0$ small enough,

$$\mathbb{E} F_d^{\mu_X}(X(s), r) \leq K \left\{ [\phi^{-1}(r)]^{Q-\varepsilon} + r^{d-\varepsilon} \right\}. \quad (4.18)$$

Now for any $0 < \gamma < \min \{d, Q/\alpha_*\}$, we choose $\varepsilon > 0$ small such that

$$\gamma < \frac{Q-2\varepsilon}{\alpha_*} \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma < d-\varepsilon. \quad (4.19)$$

By the first inequality in (4.19), we see that there exists a sequence $\rho_n \rightarrow 0$ such that

$$\phi(\rho_n) \geq \rho_n^{(Q-2\varepsilon)/\gamma} \quad \text{for all integers } n \geq 1. \quad (4.20)$$

We choose a sequence $\{r_n, n \geq 1\}$ of positive numbers such that $\phi^{-1}(r_n) = \rho_n$. Then $\phi(\rho_n) = r_n$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_n = 0$.

By Fatou's lemma and (4.18) we obtain that for every $s \in [0, 1]^N$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left(\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_d^{\mu_X}(X(s), r)}{r^\gamma} \right) &\leq K \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{[\phi^{-1}(r_n)]^{Q-\varepsilon} + r_n^{d-\varepsilon}}{r_n^\gamma} \\ &\leq K \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{\rho_n^{Q-\varepsilon}}{\phi(\rho_n)^\gamma} + \phi(\rho_n)^{d-\gamma-\varepsilon} \right\} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.21)$$

In deriving the last equality, we have made use of (4.19) and (4.20).

By using Fubini's theorem again, we see that almost surely,

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_d^{\mu_X}(X(s), r)}{r^\gamma} = 0 \quad \text{for } m_N\text{-a.a. } s \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$

This and (2.15) together imply $\dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_X \geq \gamma$ almost surely. Since γ can be arbitrarily close to $\min \{d, Q/\alpha_*\}$, we have proved (4.6). This finishes the proof of Theorem 4.1. \square

4.2. Packing dimension of $X(E)$. To determine the packing dimension of $X(E)$, we will make use of the following lemma, which is a generalization of Lemma 2.2 in Xiao (1997b).

Lemma 4.3. *Let T be any compact interval in \mathbb{R}^N and let $g : T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a continuous function satisfying the following condition: For some constant $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ and any $\varepsilon \in (0, \alpha)$, there exists a constant $K > 0$ such that*

$$|g(x) - g(y)| \leq K \rho(x, y)^{\alpha - \varepsilon}, \quad \forall x, y \in T. \quad (4.22)$$

Then for any finite Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^N with support contained in T , we have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_g \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \text{Dim}_{\alpha d}^{\rho} \mu, \quad (4.23)$$

where $\mu_g = \mu \circ g^{-1}$ is the image measure of μ .

Proof. We first prove that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \alpha)$, we have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_g \leq \frac{1}{\alpha - \varepsilon} \text{Dim}_{(\alpha - \varepsilon)d}^{\rho} \mu. \quad (4.24)$$

Take any $\gamma < \dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_g$, by (2.15) we have

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-\gamma} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \min \{1, r^d \|v - u\|^{-d}\} \mu_g(dv) = 0 \quad \mu_g\text{-a.a. } u \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

that is, for μ -almost all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-\gamma} \int_T \min \{1, r^d \|g(y) - g(x)\|^{-d}\} \mu(dy) = 0. \quad (4.25)$$

By (4.22) we have

$$\min \{1, r^d \|g(y) - g(x)\|^{-d}\} \geq K \min \{1, r^d \rho(x, y)^{-(\alpha - \varepsilon)d}\}. \quad (4.26)$$

It follows from (4.25) and (4.26) that for μ -almost all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-(\alpha - \varepsilon)\gamma} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \min \{1, r^{(\alpha - \varepsilon)d} \rho(x, y)^{-(\alpha - \varepsilon)d}\} \mu(dy) = 0, \quad (4.27)$$

which implies, by the definition (3.14), that $\text{Dim}_{(\alpha - \varepsilon)d}^{\rho} \mu \geq (\alpha - \varepsilon)\gamma$. Since $\gamma < \dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_g$ is arbitrary, we prove (4.24). Letting $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$ and applying Proposition 3.5, we prove (4.23). \square

Theorem 4.4. *Let $X = \{X(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ be the Gaussian random field in \mathbb{R}^d defined by (1.1). We assume that the associated random field X_0 satisfies Condition (C) and $0 < \alpha_* \leq \alpha^* < 1$. Let μ be any finite Borel measure on \mathbb{R}^N . Then with probability 1,*

$$\frac{1}{\alpha^*} \text{Dim}_{\alpha^* d}^{\rho} \mu \leq \dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_X \leq \frac{1}{\alpha_*} \text{Dim}_{\alpha_* d}^{\rho} \mu. \quad (4.28)$$

Proof. By following the first half of the proof of Theorem 3.1 in Xiao (1997b), and by Lemmas 2.2 and 4.3, we derive that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_X \leq \frac{1}{\alpha_*} \text{Dim}_{\alpha_* d}^{\rho} \mu \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (4.29)$$

To prove the reverse inequality, by Fubini's Theorem, for any $s \in \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} [F_d^{\mu_X}(X(s), r)] &= \mathbb{E} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \min \{1, r^d \|v - X(s)\|^{-d}\} \mu_X(dv) \right\} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \mathbb{E} [\min \{1, r^d \|X(t) - X(s)\|^{-d}\}] \mu(dt) \\ &\leq K \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \min \{1, r^{d-\varepsilon} \rho(s, t)^{-\alpha^*(d-\varepsilon)}\} \mu(dt) \end{aligned} \quad (4.30)$$

where the last inequality follows from (4.12).

For any $\gamma < \text{Dim}_{\alpha^*d}^\rho \mu$, by Proposition 3.5, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $\gamma \leq \text{Dim}_{\alpha^*(d-\varepsilon)}^\rho \mu$. It follows from (3.14) that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-\frac{\gamma}{\alpha^*}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \min \{1, r^{d-\varepsilon} \rho(s, t)^{-\alpha^*(d-\varepsilon)}\} \mu(dt) = 0 \quad \text{for } \mu\text{-a.a. } s \in \mathbb{R}^N. \quad (4.31)$$

By (4.30) and (4.31), we have that for μ -almost all $s \in \mathbb{R}^N$

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E} \left[\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-\frac{\gamma}{\alpha^*}} F_d^{\mu_X}(X(s), r) \right] \\ &\leq K \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-\frac{\gamma}{\alpha^*}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \min \{1, r^{d-\varepsilon} \rho(s, t)^{-\alpha^*(d-\varepsilon)}\} \mu(dt) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.32)$$

By applying Fubini's Theorem, we see that with probability 1

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-\frac{\gamma}{\alpha^*}} F_d^{\mu_X}(X(s), r) = 0 \quad \text{for } \mu\text{-a.a. } s \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (4.33)$$

which implies

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_X \geq \frac{\gamma}{\alpha^*} \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (4.34)$$

Since γ can be arbitrarily close to $\text{Dim}_{\alpha^*d}^\rho \mu$, we have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_X \geq \frac{1}{\alpha^*} \text{Dim}_{\alpha^*d}^\rho \mu \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (4.35)$$

Combining (4.29) and (4.35), we prove Theorem 4.4. \square

The following theorem determines the packing dimension of the image $X(E)$ for an arbitrary analytic set $E \subseteq [0, 1]^N$ when $\alpha^* = \alpha_*$.

Theorem 4.5. *If, in additions to the assumptions in Theorem 4.4, $0 < \alpha_* = \alpha^* < 1$. Then for every analytic set $E \subseteq [0, 1]^N$, we have that*

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} X(E) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \text{Dim}_{\alpha d}^\rho E \quad \text{a.s.}, \quad (4.36)$$

where $\alpha := \alpha^* = \alpha_*$.

Proof. By Theorem 4.4, we have that for any finite Borel measure μ on \mathbb{R}^N ,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_X = \frac{1}{\alpha} \text{Dim}_{\alpha d}^\rho \mu \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (4.37)$$

The rest of the proof of Theorem 4.5 is reminiscent to the proof of Theorem 4.1 in Xiao (1997b), with the help of (4.37). We omit it here. \square

Remark 4.6. When $\alpha^* \neq \alpha_*$, the problem of determining the packing dimension of $X(E)$, where $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$ is a Borel set, remains open. In order to solve this problem, a more general form of packing dimension profile needs to be introduced. A promising approach is to combine the method in Section 3 with that in Khoshnevisan, Schilling and Xiao (2010).

5. Hausdorff dimension results

The following is an extension of Theorem 6.1 in Xiao (2009a), which shows that the Hausdorff dimensions of $X([0, 1]^N)$ and $\text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N)$ are determined by the upper index of ϕ and (H_1, \dots, H_N) .

Theorem 5.1. *Let $X = \{X(t), t \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ be an (N, d) -Gaussian field satisfying Condition (C) on $I = [0, 1]^N$ and let $0 < \alpha_* \leq \alpha^* \leq 1$ be the lower and upper indices of ϕ . Then, with probability 1,*

$$\dim_{\text{H}} X([0, 1]^N) = \min \left\{ d; \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha^* H_j} \right\} \quad (5.1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \dim_{\text{H}} \text{Gr}X([0, 1]^N) \\ &= \min \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{H_k}{H_j} + N - k + (1 - \alpha^* H_k)d, \ 1 \leq k \leq N; \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha^* H_j} \right\} \\ &= \begin{cases} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha^* H_j}, & \text{if } \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha^* H_j} \leq d, \\ \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{H_k}{H_j} + N - k + (1 - \alpha^* H_k)d, & \text{if } \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{\alpha^* H_j} \leq d < \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{\alpha^* H_j}, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

where $\sum_{j=1}^0 \frac{1}{H_j} := 0$.

Proof. Since the proofs of the lower bounds in (5.1) and (5.2) are based on the standard capacity argument and are similar to the proof of Theorem 6.1 in Xiao (2009a), we will not give the details. Instead, we only provide a sketch of the proof of upper bounds in (5.1) and (5.2).

For any $\gamma' < \gamma < \alpha^*$, it follows from (2.2) that there exists a sequence $r_n \rightarrow 0$ such that $\phi(r_n) \leq r_n^\gamma$. By Lemma 2.2, we derive that almost surely for all n large enough

$$\sup_{s, t \in [0, 1]^N: \rho(s, t) \leq r_n} \|X(s) - X(t)\| \leq r_n^{\gamma'}. \quad (5.3)$$

For each fixed n large enough, we divide $[0, 1]^N$ into r_n^{-Q} cubes $C_{n,i}$ ($i = 1, \dots, r_n^{-Q}$) in the metric ρ . [note that $C_{n,i}$ is a rectangle with side-length $r_n^{H_j^{-1}}$ ($j = 1, \dots, N$).] It follows from (5.3) that each $X(C_{n,i})$ can be covered by a ball of radius $r_n^{\gamma'}$ in \mathbb{R}^d . This implies that $\dim_{\text{H}} X([0, 1]^N) \leq \frac{1}{\gamma'} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{H_j}$ a.s. Since $\gamma' < \alpha^*$ is arbitrary, we have

$$\dim_{\text{H}} X([0, 1]^N) \leq \min \left\{ d, \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\alpha^* H_j} \right\} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

This proves (5.1). The proof of the upper bound in (5.2) is similar and hence omitted. Finally the last equality in (5.2) follows from Lemma 6.2 in Xiao (2009a), or can be verified directly. This finishes the proof of Theorem 5.1. \square

Acknowledgment. The research of A. Estrade is partially supported by the ANR project “mataim” ANR-09-BLAN-029. This work was initiated during Y. Xiao’s visit to Université Paris Descartes. He thanks the staff of the Mathematics Department for their hospitality. The research of Y. Xiao is also partially supported by NSF grant DMS-0706728.

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